

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a prospective satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. The current unavailability of local TV channels promotes a two-tier system and supports the inferior signal quality of cable TV. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Satellite TV is more affordable and of higher quality. It offers as many, if not more potential services to consumers. In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lapenta
325 New London Ave. A5
Warwick, RI 02886